

Nicobar Islands, for which no specimens are available in Port Blair. A comparative habit sketch is provided here to distinguish both these taxa.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to Dr. P.K. Hazra, Director, Botanical Survey of India, Calcutta and Dr. P.S.N. Rao, Scientist 'SD' Botanical Survey of India, Port Blair, for

encouragement and facilities.

October 12, 1996

P.V. SREEKUMAR
Botanical Survey of India,
Andaman & Nicobar Circle,
P.O. Box 692,
Haddo, Port Blair-744 012.

REFERENCES

KURZ, S. (1876): A sketch of the vegetation of the Nicobar Islands, *J. Asiat. Soc. Beng.* 45(3): 105-164.

LAKSHMINARASIMHAN, P. & L.N. RAY (1991): The occurrence of *Phalaenopsis cornucervi*

(Orchidaceae) in Andaman and Nicobar Islands. *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 88 (3): 469-470.

RAY, L.N., P.V. SREEKUMAR & P.M. PADHYE (1996): Two new records of Orchids for Andaman Islands. *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 93(1): 123-125.

40. DOUBLE FRUITING IN PINEAPPLE — A RARE PHENOMENON

(With one text-figure)

The pineapple *Ananas comosus* (L.) Merr. belonging to family Bromeliaceae is one of the most important commercial fruits of the world. It is believed to have originated in Brazil, from where it spread to other tropical parts of the world. The fruit, having a characteristic pleasant flavour, is a good source of vitamin A and B and is fairly rich in vitamin C and minerals like calcium, magnesium and iron.

During the vegetative phase of the pineapple, the stem produces compacted internodes and leaves. Under natural conditions, flowering is irregular and is marked by an increase in diameter of the meristem, one year or more after planting, which then produces a series of expanded floral organs and longer internodes. After this, the diameter again decreases until purely vegetative leaves are produced which, with the short starchy stem, forms the top of the fruit or inflorescence. Under natural conditions, the pineapple plant produces single multiple fruit with one or more crowns. After a particular stage of fruit development the growth of the crown ceases and remains dormant unless it is detached for propagation and other purposes. During my visit to a pineapple plantation at the Central Agricultural Research

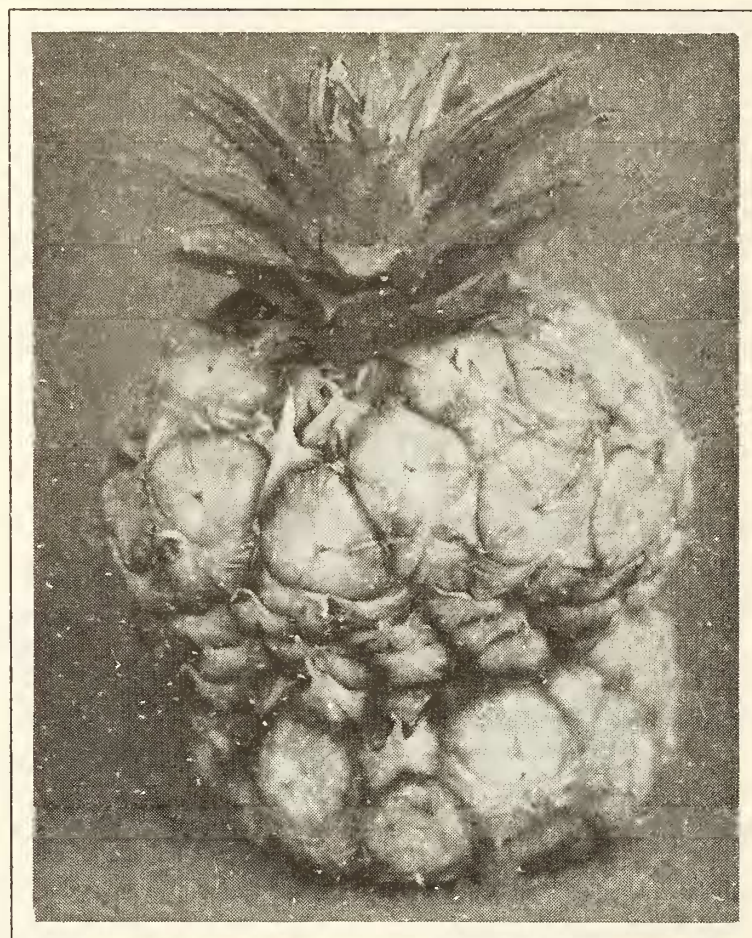


Fig. 1. Double fruiting in pineapple.

Institute, Research Complex, I noticed that in one plant of pineapple var. Kew, two months after emergence of inflorescence and fruit formation, one more inflorescence and fruit emerged/

developed from the crown of the same fruit having multiple crowns. Both the fruits on a single peduncle developed and ripened simultaneously, thus giving the appearance of a single fruit in late stage. Whatever the cause may be, this phenomenon is rare and needs further

study on nutritional, cytogenetic and physiological aspects.

October 12, 1996

D.B. SINGH

Central Agricultural Research Institute
Port Blair-744 101.

41. *POA NEPHELOPHILA* BOR — A NEW RECORD TO INDIA FROM GARHWAL HIMALAYA

(With one text-figure)

During plant explorations in Garhwal Himalaya, some interesting specimens of *Poa* were collected from Yamnotri in Uttarkashi district. Critical analysis of the specimens of the species as well as perusal of literature confirmed the identity of the species as *Poa nephelophila*, so far known from Myanmar (Burma), hitherto not reported from India (Bor 1960, Rajbhandari 1991).

The present communication pertains to the detailed description and illustrations of the species, along with short notes on its distribution, and collector's Herbarium number. The voucher specimens are deposited in the Herbarium, H.N.B. Garhwal University, Srinagar (GUH).

Poa nephelophila Bor in Kew Bull. 1948: 140. 1948; in *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 50: 819. 1952; GBCIP. 558. 1960; Rajbhandari *In The Himalayan Plants* (ed. Ohba & Malla) 2: 222. 1991.

Annual, glabrous grasses; culms erect or ascending from the geniculate base, 20-38 x 0.15 cm, leafy; nodes 2-3, shining. Leaves flat, linear-acuminate, 10-12 x 0.3-0.5 cm, glabrous on the margins and both surfaces or minutely scabrid, with rounded base, dark-green in colour; sheaths 6-16 cm long, glabrous ligules rounded at the apex, 1.1-1.2 mm long, outer surface glabrous. Panicles pyramidal, 8-12 x 2-3 cm; branches spreading, smooth, lower branches 4; spikelets oblong, 5.5 mm long, 4-6 flowered. Lower glumes elliptic-oblong, acuminate, 1.8 mm long,

1-nerved, margins hyaline, keel scabrid above; upper glumes elliptic, acute or acuminate, 2.5 mm long, 3-nerved, margins hyaline, keel ciliate to the basal half or more, remainder scabrid; paleas elliptic, oblong, 2.5 mm long, with long ciliate keels. Stamens 3; anthers 0.6 mm long. Ovary ovoid, glabrous.

Fl. & Fr.: September-October.

Rare - on alpine slopes, associated with other grasses and herbs.

Specimen examined: Yamnotri (Uttarkashi) 3300 m; D.C. Nautiyal; GUH 14917.

Distribution: Previously the plant was reported from Burma, Chimlipass, above 3300 m (Bor, 1990).

This is a very leafy species closely resembling robust forms of *Poa annua* L. However, it mainly differs in having 4 lower panicle branches and ligules 1.1-1.2 mm long, (*Poa annua* has 1 or 2 lower panicle branches and ligules measures 1.5-3 mm long).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We are thankful to the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, New Delhi, for financial assistance.

June 15, 1996

R.D GAUR

D.C. NAUTIYAL

Department of Botany,

H.N.B. Garhwal University, Srinagar-246 174,

REFERENCES

- BOR, N.L. (1960): *The Grasses of Burma, Ceylon, India and Pakistan*, London.
RAJBHANDARI, K.R. (1991): A Revision of the Genus

- Poa* L. (Gramineae) in *The Himalaya. In The Himalayan Plants* (ed. H. Ohba & S.B. Malla) pp 169-263..